PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



"SUPERMOON" A runner makes his way along a trail under a "supermoon" at Papago Park in Phoenix, Arizona. The lunar spectacle occurs in a once-a-year cosmic show, overshadowing a meteor shower from remnants of Halley's Comet, the US space agency Nasa said. The full moon seems especially big and bright as it reaches its closest spot to Earth. (Story on Page A4)

Actor, pals gang up on Tulfo at Naia 3

Columnist was taking photos of irate Claudine



AIRPORT MELEE A YouTube videograb shows Inquirer columnist Ramon Tulfo being held in a headlock during a scuffle at the Naia Terminal 3 after he took photos of actress Claudine Barretto.

By Niko Morales, Bayani San Diego Jr. and Jerry E. Esplanada

A BRAWL erupted at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 3 over cell phone photos of an actress berating a ground stewardess of a budget airline.

Actor Raymart Santiago and at least six other men ganged up on Inquirer columnist and radio host Ramon Tulfo on Sunday for taking photos of the former's wife, actress Claudine Barretto, according to Tulfo's account.

Tulfo said he arrived at Naia 3 from Davao City on a Cebu Pacific flight when he noticed a woman giving the stewardess a dressing down.

"The ground stewardess was on the verge of tears," Tulfo told the Inquirer over the phone, recalling what caught his attention before the beating

ACTOR/A19

P-Noy tells CJ: Explain $10-M bank account

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENT AQUINO yesterday called on Chief Justice Renato Corona to explain allegations he has a $10-million bank account, saying failure to do so would lead to a presumption he had amassed ill-gotten wealth.

As Corona's impeachment trial resumes today after a six-week Lenten break, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said he saw no conflict between proceedings in the Senate and the investigation being conducted by the Ombudsman into the purported dollar account.

The President, who has been

P-NOY/A22

Gov't power losses reach ₱15B in Mindanao

By Amy R. Remo

STATE-RUN Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) said it incurred losses of up to ₱15 billion between 2001 and 2011 from its operation of the government's power facilities in Mindanao.

PSALM revealed the figures on Sunday to counter allegations that the government has been raking in profits from electricity sales in Mindanao, as well as to ensure "utmost transparency to all relevant sectors as to the actual financial position of the Mindanao plants operations."

The ₱15 billion, however,

GOV'T/A19

Growth gains didn't trickle down

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

PHILIPPINE economic performance during the past decade came under close scrutiny at the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and was found wanting.

The shortfalls were most pronounced in the slow economic growth, weak job creation, a large infrastructure

GROWTH/A13

Megafight with Mayweather 'still possible,' says Pacquiao

By Mirafe U. Rueda
Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—A megafight with Floyd Mayweather Jr. "is still possible," Manny Pacquiao said after watching the unbeaten American subdue Miguel Cotto in their 12-round super welterweight title bout in Las Vegas.

"May pag-asa pa (There's still a chance), depending on the negotiations," the Filipino ring idol told this reporter in his condominium unit in Los Angeles, where he watched the last two rounds of the Mayweather-Cotto fight on Saturday night (Sunday in Manila).

"It was a good fight. They both fought well," Pacquiao added in Filipino.

MEGAFIGHT/A21



Haircut feat: 388 people in 3 hours

By Nino Calleja

BREAKING the world record on mass cutting of hair was no barber's tale for residents of Valenzuela City.

HAIRCUT/A18

A date with a rabbi, and history

By Minerva G. Generalao
Head, Research Department

A DATE with a rabbi.

This was how the talk of Rabbi Eliyahu Azaria was listed in the calendar of events for the two-week special summer program on Jewish-Christian Spirituality, held recently at the Institute of Formation and Religious Studies (IFRS) in Quezon City.

But for Corazon Ronas, one of around 40 Catholics who listened to Rabbi Azaria talk on Jewish beliefs and practices, it was more like a date with history.

Like most Catholics, Ronas, a lay matured student of biblical studies at the Society of Divine Word in Tagaytay City, has read

A DATE/A22

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FrontPage

Knights of Columbus push for founder to be a saint

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE KNIGHTS of Columbus, one of the world's largest Roman Catholic fraternal service organizations, has set up a website in the Philippines to gather accounts of miracles or answered prayers attributed to its founder, Fr. Michael McGivney, in a bid to promote his beatification.

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UNA slams door on other parties

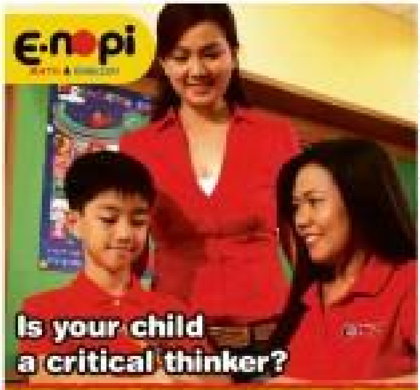
By Christian V. Esguerra

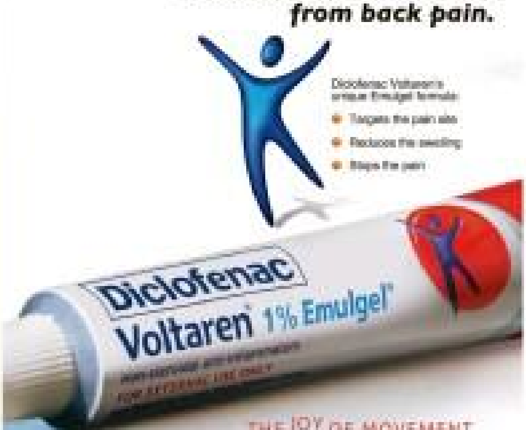
THE UNITED Nationalist Alliance (UNA) has closed the door on other political parties that may want to join the coalition for next year's midterm elections.

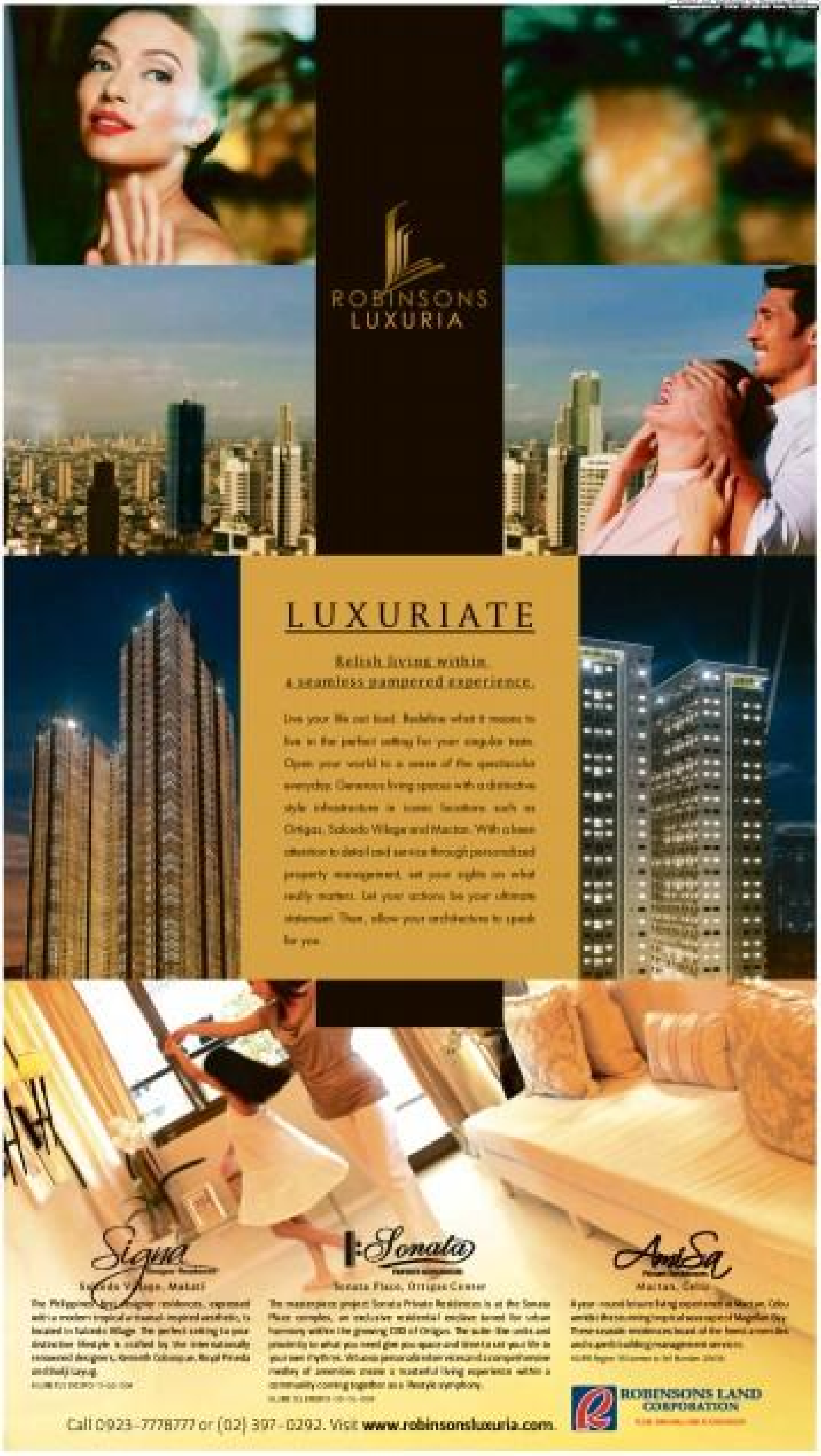
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Not a family affair

[illegible]






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‘Supermoon’ shines over PH; forecast is for rain







Chinese suspects expelled

By [illegible]

THE BUREAU of Immigration has expelled six Chinese nationals who, along with 72 Taiwanese, were arrested two weeks ago in Davao City for alleged involvement in extortion and phone fraud.

Immigration Commissioner Ricardo David Jr. said the Chinese nationals were put on a flight bound for Hong Kong in compliance with an order to leave issued by the bureau.

David, in a statement, said the aliens were expelled after a Davao court granted their habeas corpus petition and ordered their release from police detention.

The deportees were identified as Ron Lung, Xiang Zhang, Jungsheng Huang, Ning Li, Yeo Lin Li and Hai Lin Pen.

The BI chief said that even before the court ordered their release, he had issued an order directing that the six Chinese leave the country for being "undesirable aliens."

He said the Chinese nationals, who were mere tourists, were accused of operating illegal call center hubs that extorted money from victims through phone calls.

"We have always held that the stay of aliens in the Philippines is a mere privilege and not a right, thus a foreigner who engages in illegal activities here should be denied that privilege," the commissioner said.

Lawyer Arvin Santos, BI legal division chief, said the court denied a petition for a habeas corpus filed by the Taiwanese suspects who were arrested with the Chinese in separate raids by Davao police on April 18.

The raids took place after the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office sought the help of the Philippine National Police in stopping the activities of the fraudulent call center syndicate.

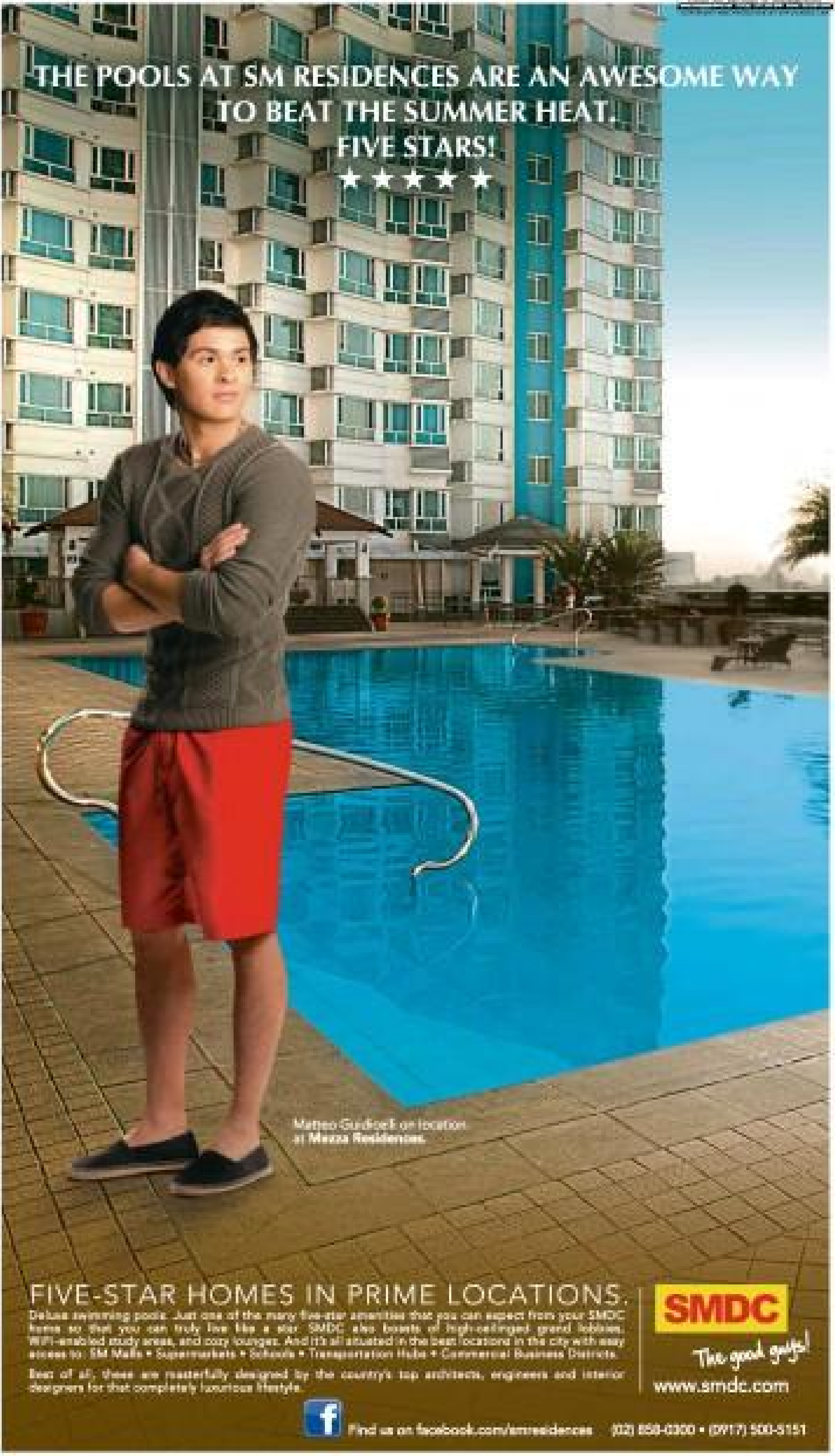
The suspects allegedly posed as cell center agents and blackmailed their victims in China and Taiwan into paying their supposed outstanding water, electric and telephone bills.

The victims were forced to pay up for fear of being charged in court as the suspects threatened to do.

NAMRIA hosts United Nations event on geographical names



The Philippines, through the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), hosted the 16th Divisional Meeting and Seminar on Geographical Names of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division (ASEPSWD). The meeting and the seminar were both held at the Manila Marriott Hotel, Pasay City on 27-29 February 2012. The UNGEGN is one of the seven expert bodies of the UN Economic and Social Council which is mandated, together with the UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, to promote the standardization of geographical names at the national and international levels. It was the first time for the Philippines to host the divisional meeting. Among the delegates were representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, The Philippines, and Singapore and from the different government and non-government organizations that are the stakeholders of the country's geographical names standardization. NAMRIA Administrator Usec. Peter N. Tiangco is very optimistic that the positive gains from the two-day event will further improve the Philippines' capability to address the issues and concerns of attaining uniformity and comparability of geographical names in the country. Shown in the photo are officials and delegates led by (seated) DENR Usec. Demetrio L. Ignacio, Jr. (second from left), UNGEGN ASEPSWD Chairperson Datuk Prof. Sr. Dr. Abdul Kadir Bin Taib, Director General of the Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia (center), and Administrator Tiangco (second from right).


THE POOLS AT SM RESIDENCES ARE AN AWESOME WAY
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Banana industry fears loss of China trade due to spat

Advanced technology

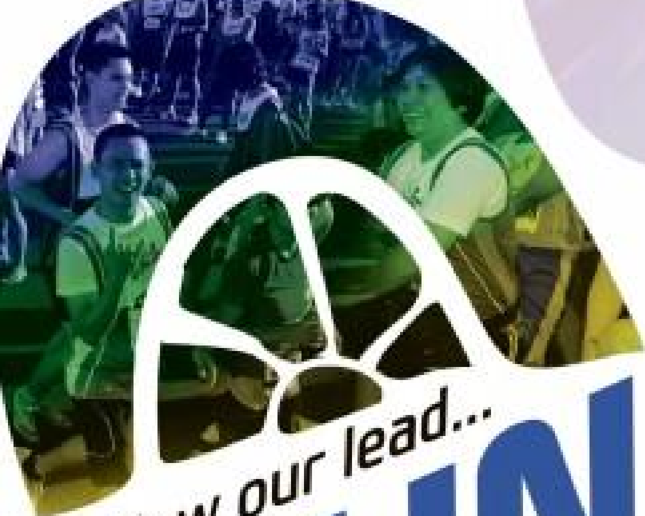
Set up flower, balloon business





State witness vs 'carnap kings' among 3 found dead in Cavite

Haircut feat



Follow our lead...

RUN FOR A CAUSE: Responsibility, Unity, and Nation-Building

The Hyundai 2012 RUN for a Cause returns in full festive mode to showcase Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc.'s (HARI) key priority projects for 2012-2013 with partner organizations that share Hyundai's vision of good corporate leadership and responsible corporate citizenship.

In its mission to be an upstanding agent of change to empower Filipinos and communities to lead productive and responsible lives, HARI commits to spearhead relevant, creative, and sustainable community building programs that will engage key stakeholders and the public at large.

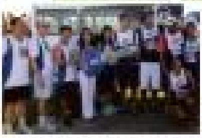






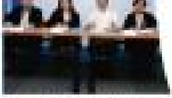


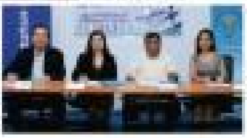




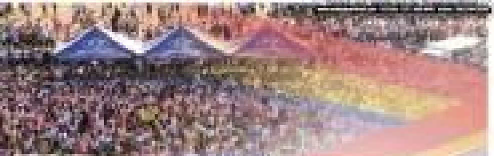


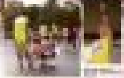




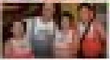



HYUNDAI RUN
Take the High Road
26,000 move as one towards
Responsibility, Unity, and Nation-building
I Run For...
RUNningFAQs











GROOV E ON

After-RUN party shook up the crowd











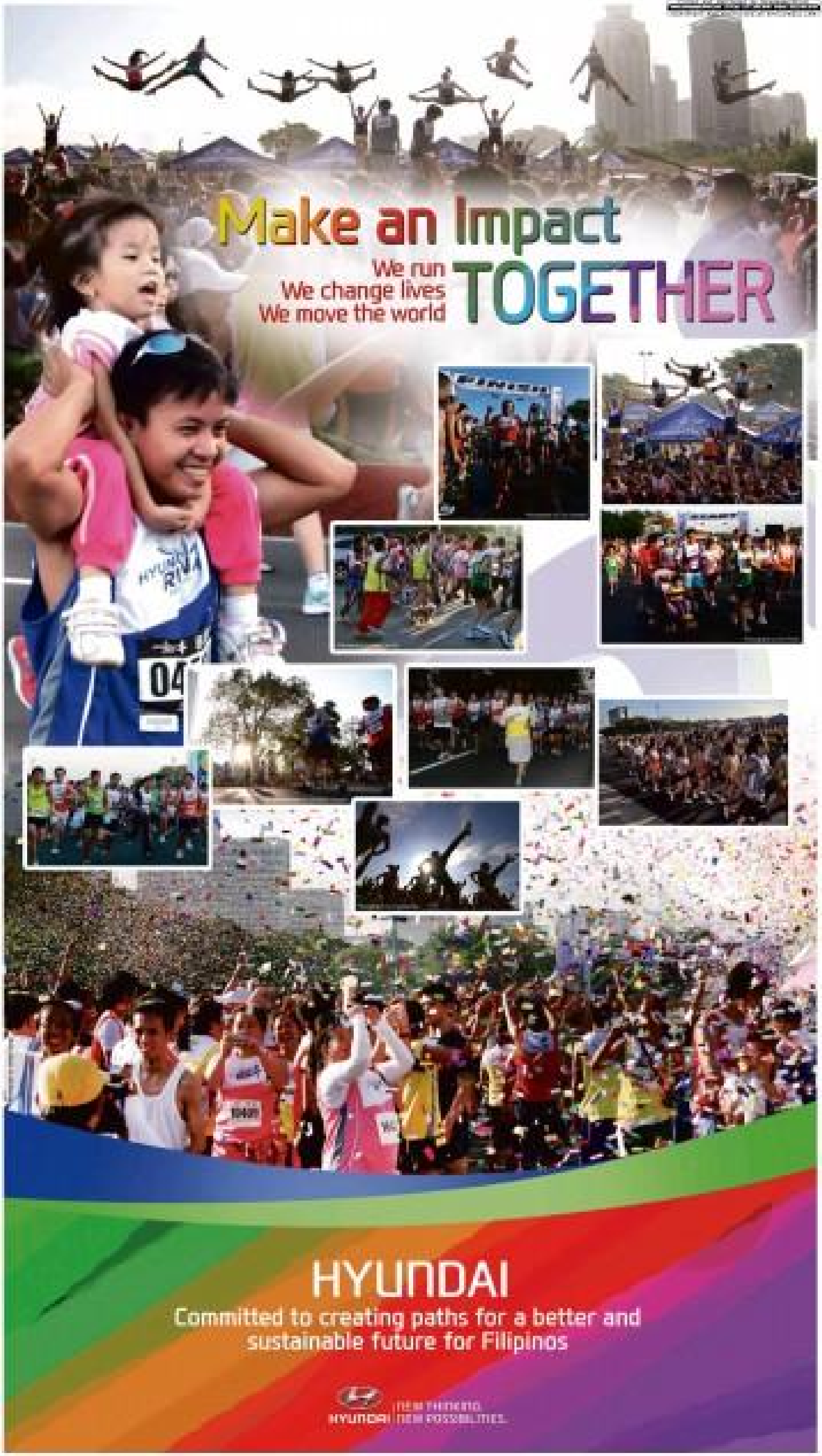












Make an Impact
We run
We change lives
We move the world
TOGETHER
HYUNDAI
Committed to creating paths for a better and sustainable future for Filipinos
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NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.

Ma hopes longest held hostage-son freed soon

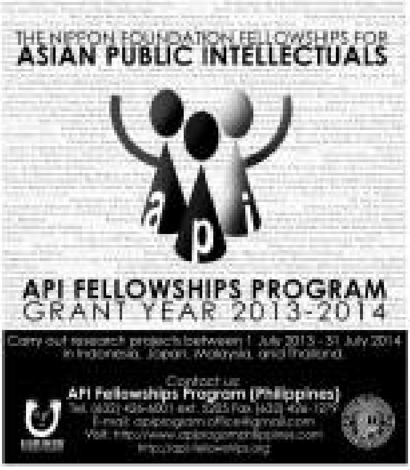
Some sailors died

Go the extra mile

Family not pleased

Aegis cited for CSR









INQUIRER

OPINION

Killing season opens

EDITORIAL



Why is Corona afraid to testify?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Fallen

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Occupy Wall Street alive and well

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

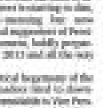
Political realignment, anything new?

COMMENTARY

Gualberto B. Lumauig

Islam's European hope

WORLD VIEW



Shlomo Ben-Ami

'All in'

REVEILLE



Ramon J. Farolan

THEY SAID

Achievement and distinction

LETTERS

Double standard at STC

'Bayanihan' showcase

Where does Binay stand?

Beauty and brains

Actor, pals gang up on Tulfo at Naia 3

Mobile phone

Hit on blind side

CCTV footage

Baggage missing

Choked

Complainants

Gov't power losses reach ₱15B in Mindanao

Losses in other plants

Capital expenditures

REFORM ARMM NOW-LANAO DEL SUR CHAPTER
and
ISLAMIC MOVEMENT ON ELECTORAL REFORM FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT
Tomawis Arcade, Banggolo
Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, ARMM

April 22, 2012

HIS EXCELLENCY

President Benigno C. Aquino III

Malacañang Palace

Manila

Your Excellency:

As law abiding citizens, we deem it appropriate to congratulate Your Excellency for the innovative improvements you have introduced in our country, the latest of which was your unprecedented call for the Annulment of the Book of Voters and the holding of Special Registration of Voters in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Our people were almost in jubilation and renewed hope upon learning such a very laudable program which will put to rest the generally accepted notion about ARMM being a seat for electoral frauds and irregularities and being a cradle of landmark decisions on election cases. However, we are so disheartened to hear that the Commission on Elections has decided to shelve such program except in the Province of Maguindanao, notwithstanding his Excellency's pronouncement to that effect and the release of four-hundred-fifty million pesos (P450,000,000) budget for the purpose.

With due respect, we find the reasons advanced by the Commission to be flimsy, if not unconvincing. Lack of material time seems unpersuasive enough to an ordinary man considering the power and resources set at the disposal of the Commission. If it succeeded in the 2010 computerized elections with only a few months of preparation, there can be no logical reason why it cannot conduct the special registration in the ARMM within a period of one year before the 2013 elections.

The grounds under consideration for the annulment of the Book of Voters in Maguindanao is equally present in the Province of Lanao del Sur, such as but not limited to padded registrations, multiple registrations, fictitious registrations, etc. In fact, the Commission's record will bear that as of April 2011, Lanao del Sur has a total of 50,678 voters with double or multiple registration classified into:

1. Double/Multiple registration determined through Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)-43,378 voters;
2. Double/Multiple registration gathered through Demographic Data or Algorithmic result-7,301 voters.

However, it is lamentable that up to this writing, 17,807 voters who were found to have double/multiple registration are still awaiting deletion from the List of Voters owing perhaps to the reluctance of some Election Officers to perform their duties. The same Commission records will also reveal that even as the registered voters in Lanao del Sur were placed under the Biometric System, there are still some 85,558 voters whose registrations are either biometric or biometrically incomplete as of April 2011, or equivalent to 16.38% of the total number of registered voters.

Statistics show that the yearly rate of increase in the number of registered voters in Lanao del Sur varies from 18% to 20%, which is very unusual compared to other provinces in the country. This also strongly contrasts the 2010 Census of Population conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) in Lanao del Sur which uncovered a marked decrease of 205,284 heads from the 2007 head count, or from 1,138,544 to 933,284 heads. Therefore, present list of voters is based on the old Census of Population of Lanao del Sur which is 1,138,544. With the 2010 population report of the NSO, the number is 933,284 or an actual reduction of 205,284 which is 18% population decrease. With these compelling facts, it is only logical and mandatory to correct the number of voters because after all, the voting population is only a percentage of the total population.

With this half-baked action by the Commission, we are certain that the electoral reforms of His Excellency in the ARMM will come to naught and, accordingly, will only taint his reform agenda.

In the light of the foregoing, we commend His Excellency for standing pat on his commitment to undertake the annulment of the list of voters in the whole of ARMM including Lanao del Sur, and to cause the holding of special registration of voters using the Biometric System. We hope the Commission on Elections heed His Excellency's call in the interest of clean, orderly and honest elections in line with our dream to effectively and completely course our region's future to the Daang Matuwid.

Very truly yours,

BENARIND O. MACARAMBON, JR.
Registered Voter of Balindong
Lanao del Sur

OMAR ALI SOLITARIO
Registered Voter of Marawi City

ATTY. [illegible]
Registered Voter of [illegible]
Marawi City

AMEROODIN A. SARANGANI
Registered Voter of Madamba
Lanao del Sur

[illegible] "CEDE" [illegible]
Registered Voter of Balindong
Lanao del Sur

ATTY. TAGO R. SARIP
Registered Voter of [illegible]
Lanao del Sur

AZIS MINDALANO [illegible]
Registered Voter of Calingan
Marawi City

CASAR M. LUCMAN
Registered Voter of Bayang
Lanao del Sur

[illegible] A. LAO
Registered Voter of [illegible]
Lanao del Sur

ENSA [illegible]
Registered Voter of Balindong
Lanao del Sur

[illegible] B. [illegible]
Registered Voter of [illegible]
Lanao del Sur

[illegible] L. AMPASO
Registered Voter of Madamba

SALIPADA S. TAMANO
Registered Voter of Tugaya

ATTY. [illegible]
Registered Voter of
Lanao del Sur

[illegible] M. [illegible]
Registered Voter of Marawi City
Lanao del Sur

[illegible] A. [illegible]
Registered Voter of [illegible]

[illegible] M. LAO
Registered Voter of [illegible]
Lanao del Sur

[illegible] A. SARANGANI
Registered Voter of Madamba
Lanao del Sur

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

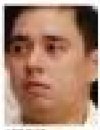


Villafuerte pits Dato vs son

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon



LRAY



ARROYO

NAGA CITY—The rift between Camarines Sur third district Rep. Luis R. Villafuerte Sr. (LRV) and son Gov. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. has widened with the former's endorsement of Rep. Diosdado "Dato" Ignacio Arroyo's reelection bid in the second district against son LRay, who plans to challenge Arroyo in the 2013 elections.

[illegible]

Gov's aide in Ortega slay nabbed

[illegible]



PATTARADDAY FESTIVAL [illegible]

Lawyers urge probe of Hall of Justice building

'We are not charging anyone. We only want to determine if there were indeed irregularities'

[illegible]

Fishers blame firm's wastes for fish kill

[illegible]

Dispute, not terrorism, might have caused Iligan blast, says cop chief

[illegible]

P-Noy tells CJ: Explain $10-M bank account

Parallel inquiry allowed

Speedy trial backed

Hostile witness

Growth gains didn't trickle down

Economic disparities

Challenge to Asia

Improving governance

A date with a rabbi, and history

Interfaith dialogue

Lone synagogue

Kosher meals



Improving relations

'Deicide'

Jesus was a Jew

Open-door policy

More Sports on A29 to A32

Late SPORTS



Llamados dethrone Texters in overtime

By Musong R. Castillo

Game 7 draws SRO crowd

Megafight with Mayweather 'still possible,' says Pacquiao

Fight with Pacquiao

Arum blamed

Unaffected by weight

Fighting on the ropes

Toughest fight

THE DAILY GOSPEL


TALK 'N TEXT
TROPANG TEXTERS
MGA KA-TROPA, MARAMING SALAMAT
SA WALANG-HUMPAY NA SUPORTA!
SA DAAN NAMIN PATUNGONG FINALS,
KAYO ANG NAGING INSPIRASYON AT LAKAS NAMIN!
TALK 'N TEXT

A plus METRO

Bayad Center owner makes 2 robbers 'pay'

QC businessman shoots suspects dead outside shop; 2 bystanders hurt

BEFORE moving in for the heist, the suspects received instructions through text messages from someone familiar with their target's schedule.



SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

Parents of boys punished by school over Facebook 'kissing' taking gripes to CHR

By Nina Calleja

Youths shown Manila Bay they'll inherit

Forum cites threats to food source for 34M Filipinos



NEW GENERATION, OLD CHALLENGE

Enrollment blues? GSIS educ loan at ₱4k/member

Videoke night out ends on fatal note in Manila



FAST-PACED DEVELOPMENT, FOR SOME

Burglar picked wrong QC store

Marikina to host 'Bathing of Buddha'

The WORLD

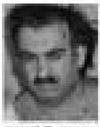
Leaders fall amid Europe crisis: Is Sarkozy next?



CAMPAIGN posters for Sarkozy (right) and Socialist Party candidate Francois Hollande.

9/11 mastermind, cohorts defy Guantanamo tribunal

GUANTANAMO BAY US NAVAL BASE, Cuba—Five Guantanamo prisoners accused of plotting the September 11 attacks refused to answer a US military judge's questions on Saturday in a chaotic court hearing in which defense lawyers sought to cast the war crimes tribunal as unfair.





KHALID Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged Sept. 11 mastermind shortly after his capture in 2003 (left) and in detention at Guantanamo.

Obama kicks off campaign with 2 huge rallies



THE OBAMAS at a campaign rally at Virginia Commonwealth University on May 5.

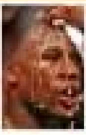
Activists say Chen case does not mean China controls easing



IT'S NOW OR NEVER.
Get your dream smartphone today!
Nokia Lumia 710
Samsung Galaxy Nexus
Google-powered
Android Ice Cream Sandwich
Samsung Galaxy Note
Phone-tab hybrid
HTC Sensation XE
Limited stocks
SPECIAL EDITION DATA PLAN 1000
1 plan. 1 phone. 24 months to pay.
500 sms
500 mins.
1GB DATA
Offer until
Tuesday, May 8
only.
SMART
LIVE MORE



SPORTS





V-LEAGUE

Ateneo, FEU rip inferior enemy

NLEX out to stretch victory run vs Blackwater

By Jasmine W. Payo



Long jump mark highlights Day 1

By Marc Anthony Reyes



Blue Eagles, Cards tangle today; Stags get going

By Jasmine W. Payo

Bulls, Sharks, Uni-bikers share baseball top spot

TRS duo 1-2 in Batangas race

Why not seven games?

ONE GAME AT A TIME

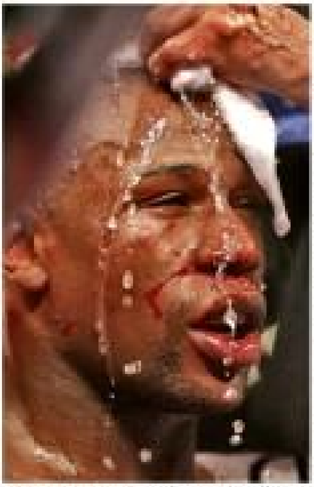
Sev Sarmenta



MercedesTrophy Nat'l Final tees off

Indonesian cuts down wild-swinging Villanueva

Crowd booes Floyd's antics



Nat'l aces plunge into action in PBaRS Cebu leg

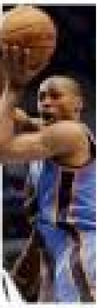


Paragua, two other Pinoys win openers

'Sagupaan' finals at Pasay today

SPORTS

Thunder oust Mavs; Pacers post 3-1 edge



Rookie steers 'I'll Have Another' to Kentucky win



BUSINESS



PH seen to draw investors with open wallets

Indicators

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

42.320



STOCK MARKET

2.86



Profit-taking expected in week ahead

ING: Great strides in governance, policies 'will go a long way'

THE PHILIPPINE growth story has attracted the attention of the global community and soon fresh investments in key sectors like power, infrastructure, tourism and business process outsourcing may go the country's way, according to Dutch financial giant ING Bank.

IN THIS ISSUE

Ambassador Manny Pangilinan

BIZ BUZZ
By the staff

The ADB money trail

Ill-conceived?

New man at Neda?

Unkind to minorities

More MSCI guessing games

In 2011, wages rose faster

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ANNUAL growth of workers' average pay in major industries picked up in the fourth quarter of 2011 to 4.7 percent year-on-year as total compensation grew faster while gross revenues and employment eased.

The National Statistical Coordination Board said in a report that the October-December increase in the average pay was stronger than the 3.6 percent growth observed in the same period of 2010.

Also, fourth quarter growth in per capita compensation was faster than the 3.5 percent recorded the previous quarter.

Based on the NSCB's latest Quarterly Economic Indices report, the real estate sector registered the highest growth in terms of average compensation at 18.1 percent year-on-year.

Other top performers were private services, where average pay grew by 6.2 percent, and trade with 5.7 percent.

The NSCB's QEI are used as basis for deciding on how much wages should be, as well as for economic forecasting and growth projections.

The QEI also covers the sectors of mining and quarrying, manufacturing, electricity and water, trade, transportation and communication and finance.

The NSCB said that the total employment index had improved ... the total gross revenue index eased by 8.1 percent in the fourth quarter from 12.7 percent in the same quarter of 2010.

It was the fourth consecutive period when revenue growth had decreased, the agency noted.

The real estate sector showed faster revenue growth at 15.2 percent. This was the sector's eighth consecutive period of double-digit growth.

Private services also showed improved revenue growth at 8.5 percent while the rest of the other sectors showed slower growth.

Further, growth of the total employment index likewise slowed, settling at 0.9 percent from 3.5 percent in the year-ago quarter. Real estate continued to record the highest growth in employment albeit slower at 4.5 percent.







Filipino multi-media users on the rise

Filipino consumers using multi-media platforms have more than doubled in the past five years, according to the latest study released by Nielsen.

The latest "3 Screen Consumer Report" showed that consumers using three platforms – TV, internet and mobile have now reached 27% on a national level as of the last quarter of 2011 from 13% in 2008.

Nielsen described the 3-Screen Consumer as a 29-year old or younger male or female belonging to the C to D classes, is internet-savvy and utilizes various forms of media. They are the typeswho are determined to be on top of what they do, are adventurous, risk-takers, have active lifestyles, fashionable and would spend on trendy gear.

TV continues to be the most dominant media platform in the Philippines, with more than 90% of urban consumers aged 15 and up having access to it.

However, digital screens have become increasingly popular through the years as mobile phone and internet usage saw steady growth in the past three years.

Mobile phone usage increased by three percentage points to 68% in 2011 from 65% in 2008. Internet usage posted the highest increase, jumping by six percentage points from 33 in 2008 to 39% in 2011.

Nielsen noted a steady growth in rural areas but 3-Screen users' reach is still highest in Mega Manila at 31% or about 5.5 million consumers using TV, internet and mobile.

Mindanao posted the highest percentage increase in 3-Screen users, from 13% in 2010 to 27% in 2011.

The percentage of Luzon 3-Screen users slightly went down in 2011 to 26% from 27% in 2010.

Visayas 3-Screen users also went up from 21% in 2010 to 27% in 2011.

According to Nielsen, the future of media consumption may well be focused on multi-media usage among 3-screens consumers.

The 3-Screen Consumer Report covers 2,000 respondents aged 15 years old and above across 21 urban key cities in the Philippines.

There is a good mix of teens, young adults and adults among 3-screen users, with 36% in the age bracket of 15-19, 33% adults aged 20-29 and 31% composing of 30-years old and above.

The study also revealed that 3-screen consumers have relatively higher media exposure compared to the general population. 68% of the 3-screen users said they listened to radio yesterday as compared with 54% of the general population. 64% of the 3-screen had exposure to outdoor ads as compared with 38% of the general population.

Notably social networking is very popular among 3-screen consumers. 74% of the respondents said they are active in social networking sites as compared with only 28% of the general population.

BUSINESS

Asia urged to be on guard against crisis factors

Expert says it's vital for gov't to regulate finance markets

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BUSINESS *Monday*

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino



MCKINNON

Stem flow of speculative capital, top economist urges markets

By Doris C. Dumlao

STANFORD University economist Ronald McKinnon says emerging markets must impose measures to temper the flow of speculative capital and prevent potential bubbles arising from what he considers to be the US Federal Reserve's "excessively loose" monetary policy.

McKinnon, who was in town last week for the Asian Development Bank annual meetings, said in an interview with the Inquirer that the US Federal Reserve was "under a very bad management."

In a presentation before the ADB's Board of Governors, the economist said the US Fed should abandon its zero interest policy and phase in modestly higher rates in conjunction with the other industrial countries represented by the European Central Bank, Bank of England and Bank of Japan.

> 'The US Fed should abandon its zero interest policy and phase in modestly higher rates in conjunction with the European Central Bank, Bank of England and Bank of Japan'

The extremely low interest rate regime in these developed markets, McKinnon said, was encouraging carry trade or the borrowing of low-cost money for investment in high-yielding emerging markets. "There is tremendous tendency to borrow in New York to invest in the Philippines or Brazil or China at higher interest rates," he explained.

This is creating potential bubbles, the economist warned, and likewise creating monetary control problems because emerging markets would not want their currencies to appreciate too sharply.

"So each central bank intervenes to buy dollars and prevent their currencies from appreciating but when they do that, they lose monetary control," McKinnon said, adding that central banks would then "sterilize" liquidity by raising the reserve requirement or other mop-up tools.

In this regard, McKinnon also favors the imposition by emerging markets of capital controls.

"The inflows can suddenly reverse," he warned.

US Fed chair Ben Bernanke has said that interest rates were likely to remain low until 2014 but the economist said the monetary chief has the "wrong model in his head."

"It's been a disaster for the financial markets," noting that many US pension funds could not meet their actuarial obligations because of poor asset yields.

He said this was causing "tremendous financial stress."

Emerging markets like Brazil, the economist said, had already complained with US President Obama about this huge monetary expansion caused by the US Fed's near-zero interest rates.

Apart from slashing key interest rates, the US Fed has also engaged in a bond buyback scheme to infuse more liquidity when there was no more room to cut nominal rates.

This scheme is more popularly known as "quantitative easing."

The economist said everyone would benefit if the US Fed and other major central banks would reduce interest rate differentials with emerging markets by raising their interest rates by a "modest" level.

Firms see mobile devices as top IT risk

Common applications

Challenges

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GOINGS-ON

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Jose Rene C. Gayo

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BUSINESS

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First Gen considering natural gas importation

New plant, expansion of facilities dependent on gas supply

[illegible]

Rise in trading gains boosts UCPB profit

[illegible]

Sun Life Grepa reports ₱1-B premium collection

[illegible]

Profit-taking expected

[illegible]

PARTICIPATORY IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

[illegible]

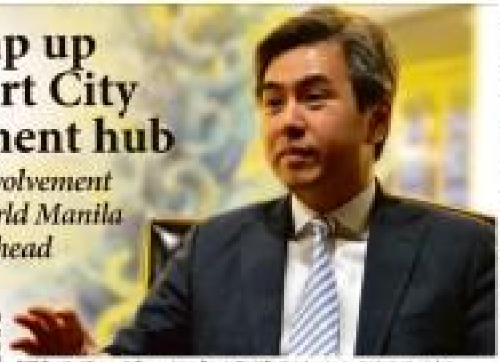
BUSINESS

DOE plans to rebid 15 coal, petroleum deals

Gov't hopes for improved seismic data to attract bids

Quick ramp up for Newport City entertainment hub

Meralco's early involvement allows Resorts World Manila to open one year ahead

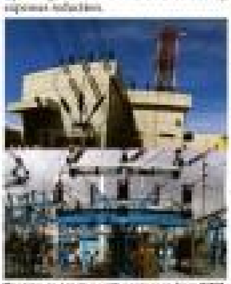


> "Meralco is an important partner, not just a supplier. We engaged Meralco early on. We shared with them our plans for Resorts World Manila so that they can also work out what we need to do to fulfill our vision."
>
> Kingson U. Sian, President, RWM



Fulfilling a vision

Power for 24/7 operations

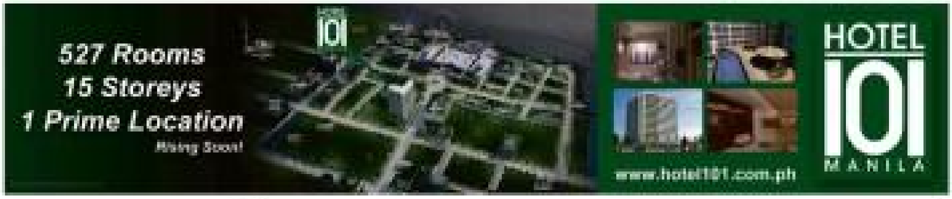




PPP Center makes early budget pitch

Puregold vows to support small entrepreneurs

BUSINESS



PH missed '11 mining investments goal

But gov't reports increased mineral sales



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Singson seeks reversal of DOJ's pro-TRB ruling

Opportunities abound for PH in weak global economy, says Sachs



SACHS

Bank says PH free from market risks

PH seen to draw investors

EIB execs say they did everything to save bank

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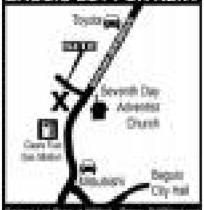
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LIFESTYLE Arts & Books



NCCA's Dance Xchange celebrates multiculturalism

By Alphonso Luigi E. Alfonso
Contributor

CEBU HAS been home to folk dance exhibitions in the Visayas. In fact, almost every town or city in the province has a dance festival: Li Torta in Argao, Kanaasa in Danao, Kabkaban in Carcar, and Mantawi in Mandaue, to name a few.

But the Visayas as a whole has always been partial to dance festivals—the Masskara and Dinagyang street dance festivals should indicate this. Visayans are a highly expressive people, according to National Commission of Culture and the Arts (NCCA) chair Felipe de Leon, so it was only fitting that the NCCA's International Dance Xchange festival should be held in Cebu.

Now on its fourth year, Dance Xchange boasted of eight international groups from the United Kingdom, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, South Korea and Singapore, and 17 dance companies from the Philippines, including Ballet Manila, Ballet Philippines, Loboc Bohol Dance Troupe, MSU Dance Company, Mandayaw Cultural Ensemble, University of San Agustin Kandilian Dance Troupe, Mahogani Dance Ensemble, among others.

Dance Xchange 2012 was led by Shirley Halili-Cruz and Larry Gabao of the NCCA National Committee on Dance, in cooperation with Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia.

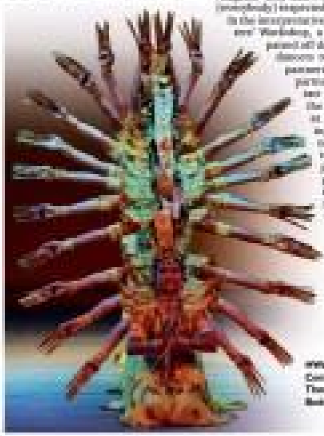
In a series of workshops, local and foreign troupes performed in a multicultural assembly that showed each country's or each Philippine region's respective dance forms. Rather than merely perform one by one, the different dance companies were brought to dance together, led by the United Kingdom's Big Dance Company in what was called as the Masters' Workshop.

Big Dance, helmed by Fiona Richardson, led the ball in a contemporary dance piece, later followed by an interpretative section. In every section, the large group of delegates was divided into three.

Despite the cultural barriers separating the dance companies, Richardson noted that respect for cultural differences became a key factor for effective exchange.

"They forget everything through dance," Richardson said. "I know in some religions they don't allow contact, and (everybody) respected that."

In the interpretative section of the Masters' Workshop, a part of the dance paired off dancers. While some dancers took to lifting their partners, others who had partners from non-contact cultures respected the latter's cultural taboos. But whether coming from contact or non-contact cultures, the groups performed with grace to a song with the lines from the English folk poem, Dangle People.



HWA YI Dance Company performs Thousand Hand Bodhisattva.





NCCA's Dance Xchange celebrates multiculturalism













CEBU Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia



FELIPE de Leon



Dance doyennes join Tangbalang Pilipino's 26th season

By Walter Ang
Contributor



AGNES Locsin



TP ARTISTIC director Fernando Josef

Edna Vida, Denisa Reyes and Agnes Locsin will choreograph TP productions



DANCERS from Kabayan, Benguet



TRADITIONAL weaving demonstration

Tam-awan festival in Baguio features traditional wine-making

THE NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and Chanum Foundation Inc., founder of the artists' haven Tam-awan Village in Baguio City, will hold the 3rd Tam-awan International Arts Festival (TIAF) on May 25-27 as part of the celebration of May as National Heritage Month.

Theme of the festival is "Brewing with the Arts," said festival director Chit Asignacion and Chanum president Jordan Mang-osan.

The three-day festival will feature different wines of the Cordillera. Wine-makers from the [illegible] and Germany will also be joining.

Festivities open on May 25 with the traditional cañao ritual and a press conference.

There will be traditional wine-making demonstrations, as well as lectures on intellectual property rights, art conservation and restoration. A fashion show will feature Cordillera costumes.

Also to be featured are tattoo art and Chinese arts and culture.

Workshops on singing, dance and costume art will be given by Anita Bungaoan, Benny Sukkong and Danny Acosta, respectively.

Chanum Foundation Inc. was founded in 1998 to reconstruct Ifugao houses in Baguio and set up a model village that would be accessible to people who otherwise did not have the chance to travel to the Cordillera interior. The village is now a showcase of Cordillera arts and crafts.



BENGUET dancers crossing the Tam-awan Village bridge



CHANUM Foundation vice president Chit Asignacion at the 2011 Tam-awan International Arts Festival. With him are guests of various seminars held for three days, who learned how to use indigenous instruments.

From dancer to milliner

Harvy Santos is runner-up in UK millinery contest

HARVY SANTOS, a former dancer of Ballet Philippines, was announced as a runner-up in Grazia Magazine's "Hat Factor" millinery contest, which is part of the Cultural Olympiad, a series of events celebrating the 2012 Olympics in London.

Judges included the United Kingdom's top milliners Philip Treacy and Stephen Jones.

[illegible]



FORMER Ballet Philippines member Harvy Santos, at right. [illegible] Grazia Magazine's "Hat Factor" millinery contest 2012 [illegible]

Dance to millinery

[illegible]



SANTOS' [illegible] entry, Worshipful Company of Feltmakers 2011

[illegible]

Learning

[illegible]

Opera

[illegible]



LIFESTYLE Arts&Books



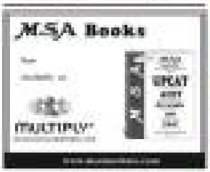


Triangulating heritage, art and function





'Triangulo' features National Artist Abdulmari Asia Imao, Juan Sajid Imao and Claude Tayag

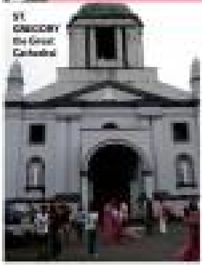




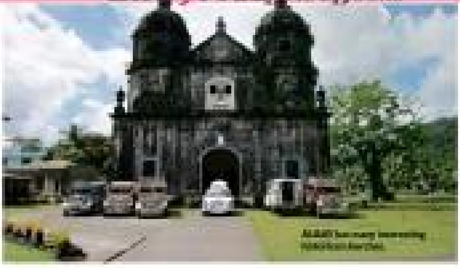
Tell-tale signs







ST. GREGORY the Great Cathedral

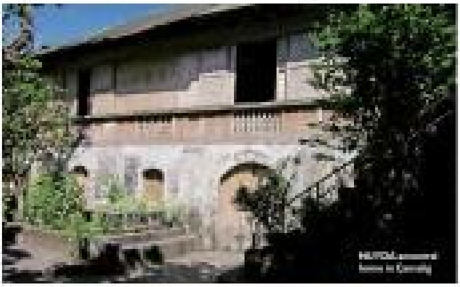




ARCH of the Cathedral

Legends and surprises in Albay

The stories and legends concerning Mayon are being relived in the Magayon festival, recently inaugurated in Legazpi City



Old churches



Magayon festival

"Sarung Banggi"

Cota Una





Triangulating heritage, art, and function

Classical and contemporary



CCP hosts Management Intensives for Arts Managers and Board Members, May 25-26

'Songs and Symphony': Strengthening Philippine-French cultural relations through music

Michael Cousteau conducted the FPO while Florence Guignolet held a voice master-class for Filipino voice students





Music and voice

Correction

Leeds winner Sofya Gulyak to perform at CCP



PIANIST Sofya Gulyak

Remembering the country's finest 'Madama Butterfly'

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

OPERA IS GETTING big-time exposure at the CCP this year, thanks to the indefatigable efforts of the CCP president, Raul Sunico, who is succeeding in networking with people and institutions that are opera-friendly.

Staging opera is a noteworthy endeavor, but getting the resources to be able to finance it is another story.

After CCP's successful team-up with a Korean opera group for "La Traviata," "Madama Butterfly" is up at the CCP Main Theater next month (June 22-23), this time in association with ManilArtists Inc.

This new Puccini revival features Japanese soprano Maiko Nishimoto, Mexican tenor Dante Alcalá, Filipino soprano Camille Lopez Molina and international baritone Andrew Fernando, with Gerard Salonga conducting the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

In the early '80s, "Madama Butterfly" was seen at the CCP with Israeli soprano Atarah Hazzan (a last-minute replacement for the indisposed Japanese soprano Yoshiko Hayashi) playing Cio Cio San, Vic... as Pinkerton, and

Puccini's opera is up next at the CCP Main Theater on June 22-23

Aurora Cecilia as Suzuki.

I don't recall any exceptional singer in that production, but I do remember the ravishing performance of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under conductor Henry Lewis, ex-husband of mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne and both close friends of the late Romero.

In 1994, the Art and Music group of Joseph Uy presented a gem of a Cio Cio San in the person of Japanese soprano Yoko Watanabe, who later passed away because of cancer. At that time, she was the best Butterfly in the US and European circuit. When I finally heard her, I thought she was the main highlight of that production.

Puccini heroine

As I look forward to this new "Butterfly," it's just proper that we recall the country's finest Puccini heroine.

For the record, the first Filipino to sing the title role of "Madama Butterfly" was no other than Maestra Isang Tapales, who sang the part not in Manila but in Teatro Dopolavoro in Bergamo, Italy, in April 1934.

In 1935, it was the turn of Maestra Jovita Fuentes (a National Artist for Music), who sang Cio Cio San in a municipal theater in Piacenza, Italy.

In the late '40s, Maestra [illegible] also debuted in the same role at the New York City Opera.

I have not seen a distinguished Filipino "Madama Butterfly" in recent times, but I did know that soprano Eleanor Calbes sang it in Canada when she was already in her 50s.

Maestra Tapales would have been 112 this year. Among her students were tenor Noel Velasco, baritone Gamaliel Viray, singer-actress Joy Virata, and Jay Glorioso, now president of ManilArtists Inc., one of the co-presenters of "Butterfly" next month.

Tapales' opera credentials include a 1947 performance of "Madama Butterfly," more than 200 performances of "La Boheme" (as Mimi), "Pagliacci" (as Nedda), and over a hundred engagements of the little known opera "Iris" by Pietro Mascagni.

Opera company

La Tapales was the first Filipino to sing at Opera Comique in Paris, followed by her student Noel Velasco several decades later. She was also the first Filipino soprano to sing with such opera icons as Giacomo Lauri-Volpi and Beniamino Gigli, who inherited the crown of Caruso before the steady age of Placido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti.


MAIKO Nishimoto


DANTE Alcalá

The country's first Butterfly is one of 10 children of Silvestre Tapales, composer and music teacher and a friend of former First Lady Imelda Marcos' uncle, Justice Norberto Romualdez, who also dabbled in composition.

She put up a short-lived opera company in Manila in the '50s with [illegible] as president and the soprano as music director. Under Tapales, operas such as "Il Trovatore," "Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Pagliacci" were staged in Manila with no less than Italian tenor Arrigo Pola (Pavarotti's first teacher in Modena, Italy) in the lead roles.

When Nishimoto and Alcalá appear in "Madama Butterfly" on June 22-23, I will be recalling Maestra Isang Tapales' opera conquests of Milan, Paris, The Hague, and [illegible] on her farewell performance in Milan's Teatro dal Verme.

For tickets to the June 22-23 performances of "Madama Butterfly," call the CCP Box Office at (02) 8323704, or ManilArtists Inc. at (02) 4905939, 0916 [illegible], and TicketWorld, at 8919999.



Lea Salonga guest-stars in 'Forbidden Broadway'

"THE FUNNIEST show in New York" (The New Yorker) that has been leaving critics and audiences in stitches since its debut in 1982 is now, on its 30th anniversary, finally coming to Manila.

Upstart Productions presents the "gut-bustingly funny" (The New York Post) Off-Broadway smash hit "Forbidden Broadway" on May 11, 12, 18-20, and 25-27 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza (Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 3 p.m.).

The Philippine production of this "fabulous pleasure" (New York Post) stars Liesl Batucan, Caisa Borromeo, OJ Mariano and [illegible], along with guest performers such as Lea Salonga, Aiza Seguerra, [illegible], with Joel Trinidad as director.

Partial schedule of guest stars: May 11 (Friday), 8 p.m., Seguerra; May 20 (Sunday), 3 p.m., Menchu Lauchengco Yulo; May 25 (Friday), 8 p.m., Salonga; May 26 (Saturday), 8 p.m., Seguerra; May 27 (Sunday), 3 p.m., Rachel Alejandro.

Created by Gerard Alessandrini, "Forbidden Broadway" is a "consistently riotous" (The New York Times) musical revue that features beloved songs from the most popular Broadway musicals—"Les Misérables," "The Phantom of the Opera," "Rent," "Mamma Mia!," "Wicked," and "Cats"—with hilariously clever new lyrics which poke fun at the shows themselves.

Although "there's no Broadway like 'Forbidden Broadway'" (Entertainment Weekly), it's not just for theater fans. With over 9,000 performances in 200 US cities and in London, Tokyo, Singapore and Sydney, 11 cast albums, and countless awards, it's clear that "even if you've never been within 1,000 miles of Broadway, you'll still love 'Forbidden Broadway!'" (Boca Raton News)

For ticket inquiries, call 02-8919999, [illegible] or 0917-[illegible], visit ticketworld.com.ph, or e-mail upstartproductions@gmail.com.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books



IN THIS ISSUE

Sun Cellular Launches Best-value BlackBerry package at only P600 a month.

In step with the growing trend towards increasing use of smartphone and social media consumption, industry mover Sun Cellular launches its new BlackBerry Social and Data Plans at only P600 per month.

"These new BlackBerry plans are designed to cater to the changing appetite of Filipino consumers towards a more advanced social media and mobile internet experience via BlackBerry, especially among entry-level users. Now, our customers can experience the key benefits of Blackberry without spending much", says Ricky Peña, Senior Vice President of Sun Cellular for Postpaid /New Business, Broadband Marketing and Marketing Services.

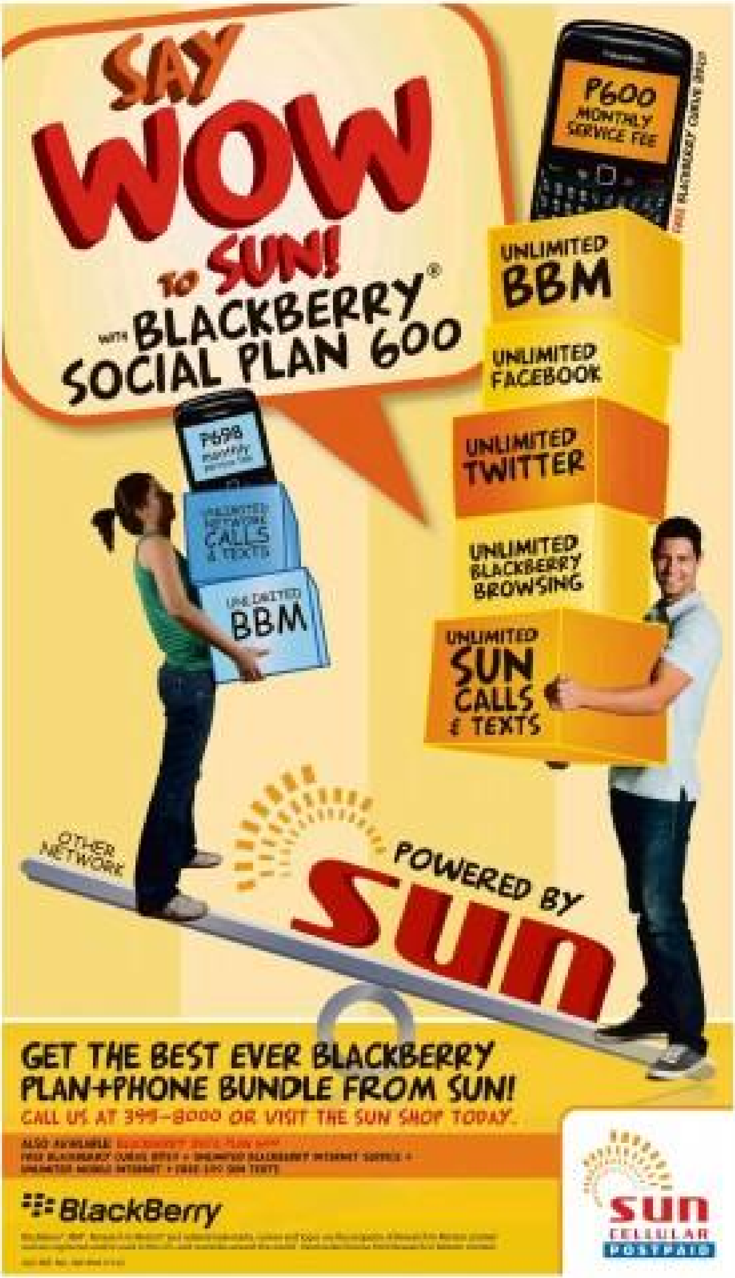
For only P600 per month, Sun offers the BlackBerry Social Plan with UNLIMITED Sun-to-Sun calls and texts. The social plan includes unlimited BlackBerry Messaging (BBM), Facebook, Twitter and other Social Networking applications. What's more, this bundle comes with a free BlackBerry Curve 8520 unit.

Sun Cellular also offers the BlackBerry Data Plan profile which comes with unlimited BlackBerry Internet Service, mobile internet, 200 Sun-to-Sun texts and a free BlackBerry Curve 8520 unit also at P600 per month. This plan best serves users who want an all-access pass to social media and mobile browsing.

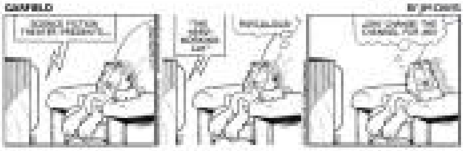
Sun Cellular also offers BlackBerry Add-on plans for its current subscribers. These would include the Add-on Plan 649 with unlimited BlackBerry Internet Service and unlimited mobile internet, and its newest BlackBerry Service Anti-Bill Shock plans for as low as P299 per month.

In support of these new BlackBerry plans, Sun Cellular has embarked on a network expansion across the country. Peña says multiple developments in Sun's network coverage and new service offerings are at play to provide the most compelling postpaid experience in the country today.

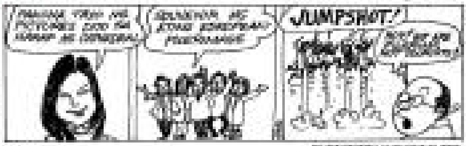
Sun Cellular is a member of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. Group.



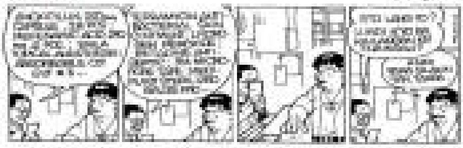
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS



A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

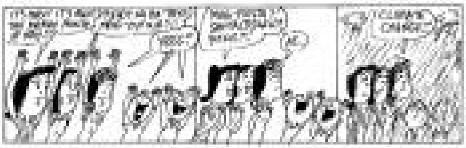


PUGAD BABOY BY PM JUNIOR



DICK TRACY BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS

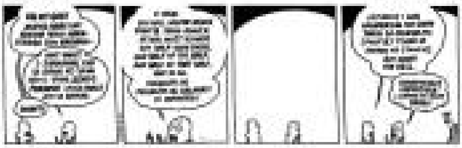




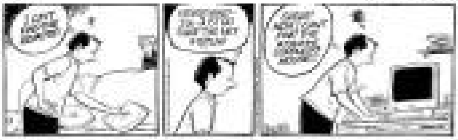
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA



BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



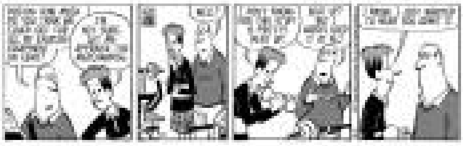
MUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL



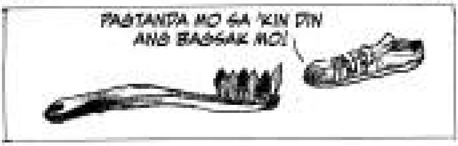
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY



DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER



TULDOK BY MARIA COLL



CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

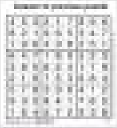
Conceptis Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

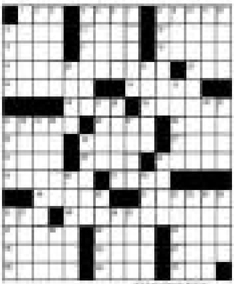
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

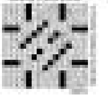
8		1	2	7				
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Difficulty Level ★

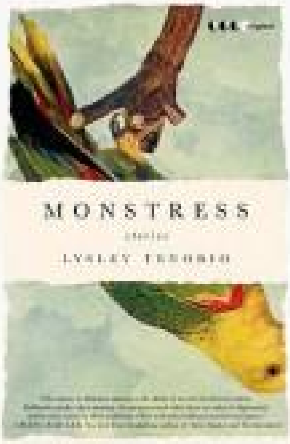


CROSSWORD PUZZLE





Beautiful 'Monstress'

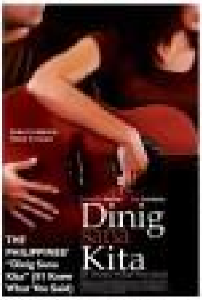


Filipino-American fictionist Lysley Tenorio exquisitely explores the Fil-Am experience in his debut collection of stories

Unfortunate sufferers

Best story

Asian film festival at Shangri-La Plaza



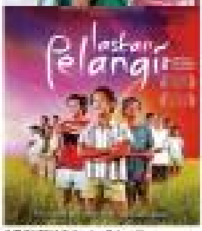
THE PHILIPPINES' "Dinig Sana Kita" (If I Knew What You Said)





SOUTH Korea's "Hwang Jin Yi" and China's "The Founding of a Republic"





INDONESIA'S "Laskar Pelangi" (The Rainbow Troops)

LG Electronics Officially Unveils 2012 Line-up of Cinema 3D Smart TV

Smart is when refined design redefines 3D.





Smart TV

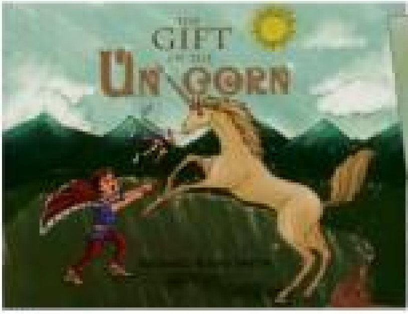
Cinema 3D

Richard Roxas Smith—the Pinoy Rick Riordan

By Linda B. Bolido

RICHARD Roxas Smith has not started a popular book series like Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson stories which are now being made into movies. And, while Riordan had the training to go into book writing, having been a teacher of English and history, Smith is a personal trainer.

[illegible]





Like the 'Percy Jackson' author, he turned fictional bedtime stories he told his kids into published works for other youngsters to enjoy

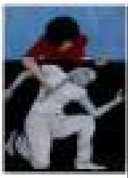
Tragic start

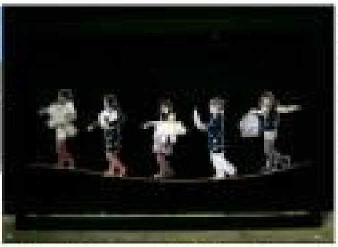
[illegible]

Early environmentalist

[illegible]

'See, Saw: Various Visions of Balance' at Vinyl on Vinyl Gallery

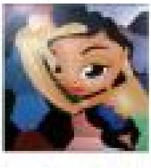






THE EXHIBIT features contributions by [illegible]

[illegible]









ENTERTAINMENT




ACTOR Mark Ruffalo, [illegible] "The Avengers," [illegible] the Hulk: [illegible] AP

What's up, Mo?

[illegible]



DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

[illegible]

What's the story behind Mojo Jojo's leaving your radio show? What can you say about his allegations that you verbally and physically abused him?

[illegible]

[illegible]



RHIAN Ramos [illegible]



RIDLEY SCOTT at work on "Prometheus." He says: "The planet has been around for three billion years or so and then, in the relatively short time of 75,000 years, evolution happens. Now we are sending unmanned space craft beyond Mars. It poses a lot of questions."

'Alien' director happily back in space with new film

WHEN a master of science fiction ("Alien," "Blade Runner") returns after a long absence, anticipation is expected to rocket sky high.

[illegible]

What was your biggest challenge in making this movie?

[illegible]

What audience experience are you going for? Will it make us jump out of our seats the way "Alien" did?

[illegible]

("Prometheus," from 20th Century Fox, distributed by Warner Bros., hits cinemas on June 7.)

Operation Blessing



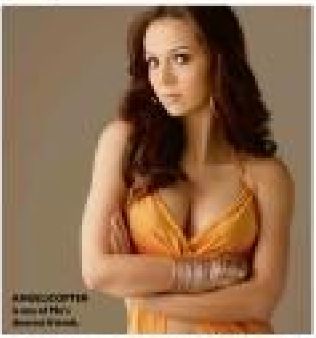
Star Home Video releases 'Corazon: Ang Unang Aswang' on DVD



GMA 7 docu chosen as finalist

Fantasy drama





What's up, Mo?



MO TWISTER



Luis Manzano

A very big 'Deal' with mom Vilma

VIEWFINDER
Nestor U. Torre

[illegible]

All for charity

[illegible]

Culture Shock

[illegible]

As long as it's fresh

HEARD

LOS ANGELES— [illegible]

AP

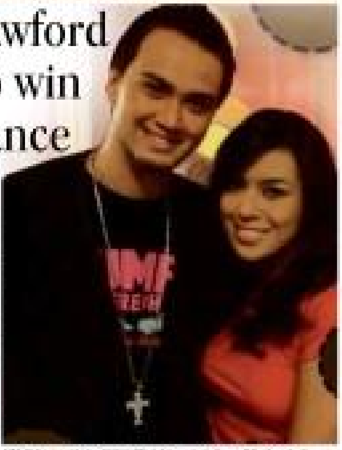








Billy Crawford hopes to win back France



By Marinel R. Cruz

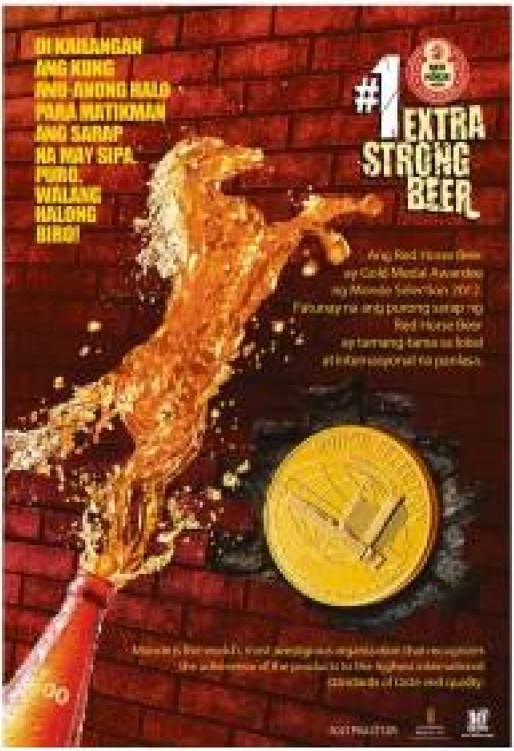
Two months

Nervous, excited

Like Charice

Whale sharks in 'Thy Womb'

Did You Know...



ENTERTAINMENT
Living Stars



Betong's view from the top

'Survivor' winner's cabinet is filled with Coke merchandise and Marvel comic books

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by [illegible]

Memorabilia

[illegible]

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3. BATTLESHIP
4. THE AVENGERS Digital 3D
5. MORON 5 AND THE CRYING LADY
6. THE AVENGERS

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1. MORON 5 AND THE CRYING LADY / THE AVENGERS
2. AMERICAN PIE: REUNION
3. BATTLESHIP
4. THE AVENGERS Digital 3D
5. THE AVENGERS

ILOCOS NORTE

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2. AMERICAN PIE: REUNION
3. THE AVENGERS

DUMAGUETE

1. THE AVENGERS in Digital 3D
2. THE AVENGERS
3. AMERICAN PIE: REUNION

BACOLOD

1. THE AVENGERS Digital 3D
2. REUNION
3. THE LUCKY ONE
4. THE AVENGERS
5. MORON 5 AND THE CRYING LADY
6. BATTLESHIP

ILOILO

1. THE AVENGERS Digital 3D
2. THE LUCKY ONE
3. THE AVENGERS
4. THE AVENGERS
5. MORON 5 AND THE CRYING LADY
6. BATTLESHIP

GENSAN

1. THE AVENGERS Digital 3D
2. AMERICAN PIE: REUNION
3. THE AVENGERS / MORON 5 AND THE CRYING LADY
4. THE AVENGERS

ANGELES

1. THE AVENGERS
2. BATTLESHIP
3. AMERICAN PIE: REUNION
4. THE AVENGERS

PANGASINAN

1. AMERICAN PIE: REUNION
2. MORON 5 AND THE CRYING LADY / BATTLESHIP
3. THE AVENGERS Digital 3D
4. THE AVENGERS

Creative rootlessness

Tony winner Jonathan Pryce recalls that his father was in a mental hospital



IN THIS undated image released by the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Pryce is shown during a performance of "The Caretaker," in New York.

NEW YORK—Jonathan Pryce has played a Danish prince, a Lebanese king, a James Bond villain, Henry Higgins and Sherlock Holmes. Now the Welsh actor is playing a tramp.

The two-time Tony winner is starring in an acclaimed production of Harold Pinter's 1960 play, "The Caretaker," about a battle of wills between two working-class brothers and a shady drifter named Davies, played by Pryce.

Final stand

Pryce took his Davies from Liverpool to London in 2010. This year, he's played it at the Adelaide Festival in Australia, in San Francisco, and at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. He makes a final stand this month and in June at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York.

In 1995, he played one of the brothers in a National Theatre production in honor of Pinter's 65th birthday. That's when he got to know the Nobel Prize-winning playwright.

Asked how he prepared to play the malodorous tramp, Pryce just laughs. "Sixty-five years of life's experiences, and they're nearly all there in this piece," he says.

Pryce has played The Engineer in "Miss Saigon" on Broadway (he is in the film version of "Evita" opposite Madonna, "Hamlet" in the West End, an 007 enemy in "Tomorrow Never Dies," the father of Keira Knightley's character in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" films, and cowardly Sam Lowry in Terry Gilliam's "Brazil."

His creative restlessness continues after Pinter. He is in the indie film "Hysteria," about the invention of the vibrator, with Maggie Gyllenhaal, Hugh Dancy and Rupert Everett. Later this summer he'll play the US president in "G.I. Joe: Retaliation."

In forever? He has done "King Lear" in London. "I'm just lucky, I guess," he says.

Is it a challenge playing Davies, who is impossible to nail down?

It's a gift. In a way, from doing about the play is a challenge, but it's why I wanted to play Davies. There are many sides to him. And he abides by no rules. That's very enjoyable to play.

You knew Pinter socially. What was he like?

He was someone I admired greatly both as a writer and as a political animal. He was quite extraordinary—funny and irascible by turns. There are stories about his bluntness with people, but he had a great sense of humor and if he liked you, he liked you.

There are a few clues to Davies' back story, including that he may have been in a mental hospital. What do you draw on when you play this tramp?

My father had a nervous breakdown in 1958 when I was 11. He spent time in one of these very brutal mental hospitals, a particular hospital in north Wales. It was a grey, forbidding stone building. I don't know how long my father had been in there, but he was recovering when he asked to see me.

What was the visit like?

Like going to prison—through a series of locked doors, down these corridors. I felt very tiny in this huge place. My father scared me. I don't remember saying very much to him, but I remember looking over his shoulder into the window at the courtyard, where dozens and dozens of men walked round and round. I remember men in these beds with leather straps. When you're broken and you're playing this man who was possibly hospitalized at the same time as my father was, you remember. When he says, "I had a jump in one once," I did. It stays with you. AP



BETONG made an album of "Survivor" photos on his laptop for fellow castaways.



MAN OF MANY hats. He usually wears them for shows.



SCENTS of a man: OPM, Burberry, Chanel, Bvlgari.

Betong's view …

From page G1

ting as a staffer on the Kapuso magazine show, "Pinoy Meets World."

Hoarder

Another childhood obsession are comic books. "When I was a kid, I hoarded Marvel and DC comic books," he recounts. "I always watched weekend cartoon shows like 'Saturday Fun Machine.'"

He owns a number of superhero action figures that he keeps in the family home.

"Now that I'm an adult, I'm into Marvel clothes and accessories," he continues.

He owns superhero tees, caps and jackets. He has a Captain America bag that looks like the hero's shield.

Naturally, he was first in line when "Marvel's The Avengers" opened in local cinemas.

"Survivor" souvenirs

During the reality show's taping in Palawan, he amassed a number of souvenirs.

He kept the buffs the contestants wore and the coconut cups they used.

He wanted to bring home the sunny pot they cooked their food in, but was afraid he would get in trouble at the airport.

"But I kept the pang-kapal (coconut meat shredder) and our small bao (chest)," he says.

He plans to have his tattered costumes framed.

"I was the first one to collect the items from the show, even the 'tree Mail' (scrolls for the challenges)," he remembers. "The others just followed suit."

He also kept the table centerpiece from the show's first press conference.

A fan from Cagayan de Oro gifted him with an intricate, indigenous jewelry that reads "Survivor Betong."

Hats

As part of his comic persona on shows like "Dang Hirit," "Ang Blonde" and "Bubble Gang," he has started accumulating all sorts of headgear.

"I wear them when I host corporate shows, too," he says.

His favorite is a fedora. He usually gets his hats and caps from stores like Zara and Topman. "I like to look cool or a look," he notes. On a trip to Singapore, he snapped up hats with brand names like Uniqlo and Pull & Bear.

He also has Marvel baseball caps (Captain America, Thor and Incredible Hulk), of course.

Clothes

For formal occasions, he reaches conservative duds with long-sleeved shirts.

But because he's a comedian, he has to stock up on colorful outfits as well. "I have to look different on TV," he says.

He can be a persistent shopper who's not averse to hitting the stores in Divisoria and Makati.

For whether it's a high-end boutique or a flea market, he waits for the items to go on sale. "I got some clothes at 80 percent off. Some at 50 percent off. I'd be happy with a 20 percent discount, too," he quips.

He counsels other shopaholics to venture into out-of-the-way malls that are not too frequented by crowds.

"A good place to hunt for discounts is Sta. Lucia mall in Cainta," he says. "I also go to the Duty Free shop in Clark. There are a lot of good finds there."

Jackets

Apart from the usual Marvel jackets, he owns two that are emblazoned with his show's logos.

The "Survivor" jacket was a gift from director Rico Gutierrez; the "Tunay Ballad" jacket from veteran Sharon Wahl, who had it specially made for the team.

He frequents various shops like People Are People and Folded & Hung.

Shoes

He goes for extraordinary footwear. "I want to stand out," he admits. "I prefer shoes that no one else would think of wearing."

His shoe rack is bursting with colors.

"I buy mostly high-cut shoes—anything that looks vibrant and bizarre," he says.

Fellow "Survivor" castaway KC Montero gifted him with a pair of Vans.

He puts on the funnel and Kevin safari shoes, which he got at the SM Mall in Divisoria, when he needs to portray a kooky character.

He bought the K-Swiss sneakers in Singapore and the New Balance pair at Trinoma, Quezon City. "The store manager was kind enough to give me a 20 percent discount on the New Balance shoes. I think he's a fan of 'Survivor.'"

Eyewear

His forum is so thinking, he needs shades.

Among the eyewear brands in his collection are Vans and Oakley.

He uses the shades worn to avoid the outrageous, too. But he insists that he wore the old-fashioned shades only when he played the character Super O on the show "Day Off." "They cost only P100," he notes.



INTRICATE gift from a fan in Cagayan de Oro

Watches

Some of the timepieces in his closet are presents from fan and Mary's fans from abroad.

His favorite is the Puma sports watch.

He leans toward sporty styles, but also keeps formal, metallic pieces for special occasions.

He never leaves home without his Bench watch. Other brands in his collection are Fossil, Converse, Aldo and American Boulevard.

Scents

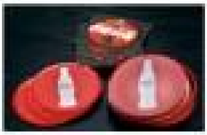
Some of the bottles on his dresser are gifts from friends.

Among his faves are Burberry, Bvlgari and Ogie Alcasid's OPM and Dingdong Dantes' Deseo from Bench.

"I love Bvlgari Aqua Toni; because it smells sweet and masculine at the same time," he says.

When he's scrimping, he turns to local brands. "Bench is affordable. I don't have to worry even if I finish an entire bottle quickly. I can keep spraying—especially on hot summer days."

chipzdemallo@gmail.com



COKE coasters and cases



HIS SHOE collection can only be described as eclectic.



BUFFS from Palawan



COKE memorabilia



WATCHES galore: Universal Studios, Converse, Adidas, American Boulevard, Puma

DLSU names scholars from public high schools/ H4

Mother and son on the Math Challenge/ H4

LEARNING



DREAM TEAM. [illegible]

MY DREAM INTERVIEW CONTEST

And the 5 team finalists are...

TWENTY students and five teachers who have been dreaming of qualifying for the global competition that could take them to Madrid, Spain, are now one step nearer that goal.

[illegible]


PANGILINAN






MACUJA


RIYO

[illegible]

Playgrounds for the MIND

UPD wins inter-collegiate debating tilt

[illegible]

AIM joins Global Business School Network to strengthen management education

[illegible]

CEU honors outstanding students and model organization presidents

[illegible]

Adamson's BS Biology students go scuba diving in revised curriculum

[illegible]

Southville conducts lectures on environment awareness in community

[illegible]

CAMPUS BRIEFS

LPU wins Adobe Design award in student category

[illegible]

PWU, Budi Luhur sign cooperation agreement



[illegible]

De La Salle Lipa to co-host MSP national confab May 18 to 19

[illegible]

Ricky Lee lectures at FAITH



[illegible]

Claret to host TESOL certification course May 14 to 25

[illegible]

Westfields Int'l School officials back in country

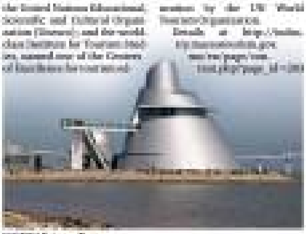


[illegible]

Member Schools

[illegible]

Macau offers incentives to student tourists market



MACAU Science Center

UK university orientation seminar

Best practices for audit committees

Excellence award in Singapore for Filipino



AGUILAR with general manager Christoph Sy...

Eight young scientists to compete in 2012 Isef

And the 5 team finalists are ...

From page H1

What he's learned ...

From page H1

Meeting people

Backbone

Math challenge

From page H1

Visually impaired champ

DLSU launches scholarships for public school graduates

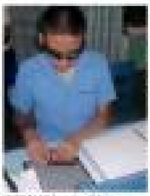






Math challenge





What he's learned from the numbers game



